

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:OVIP (FORD, GERALD R.)

SUBJECT:PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: PUBLIC STATEMENTS

REF: SEOUL 7467

1. FOLLOWING ARE DRAFT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE STATEMENTS WHICH DEPARTMENT SENDING TO WHITE HOUSE. DRAFT DINNER TOAST WILL FOLLOW SEPTTEL. STATEMENTS SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH KOREANS IN ANY FASHION. WE ARE UNDER STRICTEST INJUNCTION ON THAT POINT.
 2. DRAFT ARRIVAL STATEMENT:
 3. I GREATLY APPRECIATE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN TO KOREA. I HAVE NOT SEEN YOUR COUNTRY SINCE 1953, WHEN I VISITED KOREA AS AN AMERICAN CONGRESSMAN. MANY OF MY FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES IN OUR CONGRESS HAVE SPOKEN TO ME WITH PRAISE AND ADMIRATION FOR THE CHANGES WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN YOUR GREAT COUNTRY IN THE INTERVENING TWO DECADES. I AM NOW LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING AGAIN THE MANY QUALITIES WHICH HAVE MADE YOUR CULTURE AND ENDEAVOR RESPECTED INTERNATIONALLY
 4. THIS IS MY FIRST EXTENDED VISIT ABROAD AS PRESIDENT,
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AND MY PRESENCE HERE TODAY ATTESTS TO THE STRENGTH AND

DURABILITY OF THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

5. I AM VISITING KOREA AT A TIME OF GROWING INTERNATIONAL
DETENTE IN ASIA. WE ALL HAVE A VITAL INTEREST IN CON-
TINUED PROGRESS IN RELAXING TENSIONS IN THIS PART OF THE

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WORLD AND IN LAYING A FIRM FOUNDATION FOR REGIONAL PEACE
AND STABILITY. DETENTE AFFECTS THE COMMON GOALS SHARED
BY THE UNITED STATES AND KOREA WHICH I WILL DISCUSS WITH
PRESIDENT PARK -- PEACE IN ASIA, SECURITY FOR THIS
PENINSULA AND THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC WELFARE OF OUR
TWO PEOPLES.

6. WHILE MAINTAINING OUR TREATY OBLIGATIONS, WE ARE
ALSO HOPEFUL THAT TENSIONS ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA CAN
BE RELAXED, AND THAT RESPONSIBLE MEANS TO ACHIEVE A
PERMANENT PEACE CAN BE FOUND. THE UNITED STATES FULLY
SUPPORTS YOUR EFFORTS TOWARDS THIS OBJECTIVE AND
WELCOMES THE DIALOGUE STARTED THREE YEARS AGO WITH THE
NORTH.

7. SINCE OUR MUTUAL RELATIONS BEGAN ALMOST ONE HUNDRED
YEARS AGO, THE UNITED STATES AND KOREA HAVE BEEN ALLIED
IN TWO WARS FOUGHT TO PRESERVE PEACE AND FREEDOM IN
ASIA. IN THE FIRST, AMERICANS FOUGHT AT THE SIDE OF
KOREAN TROOPS TO PRESERVE THE INDEPENDENCE OF YOUR
REPUBLIC. LESS THAN TWENTY YEARS LATER, SOLDIERS
OF A VIGOROUS AND STRONG KOREA MADE A SIMILAR SACRIFICE
SO THAT THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM MIGHT HAVE AN EQUAL
CHANCE TO SURVIVE.

8. ALTHOUGH MY VISIT IS BRIEF, I KNOW THAT WHAT I WILL
SEE AND DISCUSS HERE WILL REASSURE ME OF THE VITALITY OF
THE KOREAN PEOPLE AND THE STRENGTH OF OUR ALLIANCE. I
LOOK FORWARD WITH GREAT ANTICIPATION TO MY DISCUSSIONS
HERE, AND COMING TO KNOW AT FIRST HAND THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE COURAGEOUS AND DETERMINED KOREAN
PEOPLE.

9. DRAFT DEPARTURE STATEMENT.

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10. IT HAS BEEN A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME, AS WELL AS THE
MEMBERS OF MY PARTY, TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE THIS BRIEF
BUT REWARDING VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

11. DURING MY TWO DAYS IN KOREA, I HAVE HELD CONVER-
SATIONS WITH PRESIDENT PARK AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS. I HAVE MET A BROAD SPECTRUM OF KOREANS

INCLUDING LEADERS OF THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES. I HAVE ALSO VISITED OUR AMERICAN SOLDIERS WHO ARE HERE TO HELP PRESERVE THE PEACE. ,

12. IN MY MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT PARK AND OTHER LEADERS, I HAVE EMPHASIZED THE DURABILITY OF THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO ASSIST IN THE DEFENSE OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND TO INSURE STABILITY ON THE KOREAN

PENINSULA. I HAVE TOLD THEM THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL UPHOLD ITS TREATY OBLIGATIONS TO KOREA, AND THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO ASSIST IN THE MODERNIZATION OF YOUR ARMED FORCES. AT THE SAME TIME, I HAVE NOTED THE CONGRESSIONAL CONSTRAINTS ON OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

13. I HAVE BEEN GREATLY IMPRESSED WITH KOREA'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS, AND AM ENCOURAGED THAT TOGETHER WE CAN CONTINUE TO CONSTRUCT TRADE AND INVESTMENT RELATIONSHIPS THAT ARE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL.

14. THIS HAS BEEN A MEMORABLE VISIT. I HAVE BEEN DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY THE DYNAMIC QUALITIES AND REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE. AS I NOW BID FAREWELL TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND TO THE PEOPLE OF KOREA, I WISH TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR THE VERY WARM HOSPITALITY AFFORDED ME. MAW

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